

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

714/744 P STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814

February 27, 1987

TO: All County Welfare Directors
All County Administrative Officers

Letter No.: 87-10

SUBJECT: DEFINITION OF PRIMARY CARE CLINIC

REFERENCE: All County Welfare Directors Letter No. 86-73

The Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch has received numerous phone calls from county welfare departments requesting a definition of a primary care clinic as a result of All County Welfare Directors Letter No. 86-73. This letter directs county welfare departments to issue Medi-Cal labels to licensed "Primary Care Clinics" (PCC) pursuant to Assembly Bill 2918 amending Section 14018.4 of the Welfare and Institutions Code.

The following definition of a PCC may be found in the Health and Safety Code, Section 1204:

"Only the following defined classes of primary care clinics shall be eligible for licensure:

- (1) A "community clinic" means a clinic operated by a tax-exempt, nonprofit corporation which is supported and maintained in whole or in part by donations, bequests, gifts, grants, government funds or contributions. In a community clinic, any charges to the patient shall be based on the patient's ability to pay, utilizing a sliding fee scale.
- (2) A "free clinic" means a clinic operated by a tax-exempt, nonprofit corporation supported in whole by voluntary donations, bequests, gifts, grants, government funds or contributions. In a free clinic there shall be no charges directly to the patient for services rendered or for drugs, medicines, appliances, or apparatuses furnished."

County and other governmentally operated clinics are not included in this definition.

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The above definition will be included in a revision to the Medi-Cal Eligibility Manual within the next three months.

In addition to counties requesting the above definition of a PCC, the Department was also asked to provide a listing of the PCCs within each county. Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch is currently reviewing the feasibility of providing such lists and updates as necessary.

If you have any questions, please contact Florence Beller at (916) 323-5861.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Frank S. Martucci, Chief
Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch

cc: Medi-Cal Liaisons
Medi-Cal Program Consultants

Expiration Date: May 31, 1987